



News and Events in the 5th Grade

February 27, 2012

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Important Dates

Mar 3	PTO Auction (6:00 p.m. at O'Sullivan's)
Mar 5	Casimir Pulaski Day (No School)
Mar 6-9	ISAT Testing
Mar 10	Annual Holmes Basketball Parent/Staff Game (6:00 p.m. at Brooks)
Mar 26-30	Spring Break (No School)
April 3	Science Fair

Dear Families,

Our 5th graders did a phenomenal job leading the African-American History Month assembly last week. They worked very hard for several weeks to prepare and their hard work showed through in their performance.

ISAT testing is next week! Students will not have any homework during the testing week. Please help students get enough sleep the night before each test, and eat a healthy breakfast each morning. Encourage your child to do their best, but at the same time, help ease any anxiety they may be experiencing. The testing schedule is below. Please try to have students be present and on time every day.

Monday, March 5th	No School	No School
Tuesday, March 6th	Reading 1	9:45am - 11:00am
	Reading 2	12:45pm - 2:00pm
Wednesday, March 7th	Reading 3	8:15am - 9:30am (5M) 9:45am - 11:00am (5K & 5P)
	Math 1	12:35pm - 1:45pm
Thursday, March 8th	Math 2	9:45am - 11:00am
	Math 3	12:45pm - 2:00pm

Art -The *Wednesday Journal's* "Design an Ad" contest entries are due to Mr. Kristofer on 3/1. Remember ads must be in black and white (ink, not pencil) and must include the business information listed at the top of your sheet. Good luck!

Music - This week we will be finishing our game of music basketball (using xylophones) but we will also be playing recorders. Please make sure your child has theirs in school by Wednesday. If they cannot find theirs, recorders are now 6 dollars cash, check (to District 97) or can be purchased through the school store (under misc. payments).

Spanish - In Spanish we are working on ordering food in a restaurant. Students are working in groups to create a skit that includes waiter/waitresses, managers, and diners. We will start performing the role playing this week.

Library - Information can be found on the Holmes Library page on our school website, <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>.

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.



Reading/Literature

TREASURES

We will not be reading a treasures selection this week. Students will take a couple of ISAT practice tests to get a feel for the timing and format. After taking the tests, we will go over the answers as a whole class, and hold discussions about good test-taking strategies.

LITERATURE CIRCLES

Literature Circle Discussion #3 will be on Wednesday, 2/29

READING LOGS

Please be sure that your child is reading 30 minutes each night and responding to what they read in their reading logs.

Students are expected to turn in their logs on Friday. At that time, your child's homeroom teacher checks for 5 complete entries.

Language Arts

Writing Focus: Last week, students began to investigate different famous Americans, so that they could pick one to write a compare/contrast essay about. This week, students must decide on a person to compare themselves too, finish gathering information about that person, and begin writing their essays. The compare/contrast essay is due on March 14th.

Grammar Focus: We will be reviewing grammar skills students have worked on this trimester through Jeopardy-style game on Friday.

Math

This week, we will be reviewing concepts covered earlier in the year, including, fraction addition and subtraction, order of operations and symmetry. In addition, we will practice using the fraction functions of the TI-15 calculator. Students may use calculators on the upcoming ISAT test. It is important that every student have a calculator. We still have calculators available for purchase at a cost of \$16.

Science

In this week's science class, students will be constructing flippers, or catapults. They will then launch corks and evaluate variables to determine which setup will result in the highest launch. It is sure to be an interesting week in class.

Students should now be working on setting up their experiments and collecting data. You can help by making sure that your student is making observations, taking photographs and collecting data on a regular basis. The next major deadline is the March 23 research paper due date. I will be periodically checking progress on Science Fair projects, but for the next several weeks, students should be working on their projects at home.

Social Studies

This week, students will play an online game focusing on the American Revolution. It will allow them to choose characters who might have lived then and learn about their roles. We also will take one more day to reinforce map skills.

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